

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10-30, 38, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention; and rejected claims 1-8 and 10-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GRABER et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,769).

By way of this amendment, Applicants cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 1, 6, 24, 26, 27, 38, and 46 to improve form. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-8, and 10-47 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Initially, claims 1-8, 10-30, 38 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, regarding independent claim 1, the Examiner indicated that it was unclear how the last step of claim 1 is related to forming a modified request to direct a second server. (Office Action, pg. 2). Applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the statement relating to forming a modified request that is directed to a second server from the preamble. Claims 2-8, 10-23 and 47 depend from claim 1. In view of this amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding independent claims 24 and 26, the Examiner indicated that it appears that the original link as modified is unable to facilitate access to other resources residing on remote servers because the modified link is not linking to the remote server in where the resource is resided. (Office Action, pg. 2). The Examiner further notes that forwarding of the markup language document as modified (link modification) to a requestor does not facilitate any access to other resources resided on remote servers and it is not clear what the requester is requesting. Applicants have amended claims 24 and 26 to remove the portions of the preambles relating to facilitating access to other resources residing on remote servers through an intermediate server. Claim 25 depends from claim 24.

Regarding claim 27, the Examiner indicates the last two steps of claim 27 are not understood in that they do not result to requests associated with the URL are directed to the intermediary server rather than the resource. Applicants have amended claim 27 to now define modifying the initial hostname of the URL to a predetermined hostname with the initial hostname being a subdomain to the predetermined hostname, wherein the predetermined hostname (rather than the subdomain, as previously recited) is associated with an intermediary server, such that requests associated with the URL are directed to the intermediary server rather than the resource. Claims 28-30 depend from claim 27.

Regarding claim 38, the Examiner indicates that the scope of claim 38 is not clear in that the purpose of modified target URL is not clear. (Office Action, pg. 2). The Examiner further indicates that it does not appear that the target URL is modified by merely appending the hostname of a source URL to the target URL.

Claim 38 has been amended to define a method for modifying target Universal

Resource Locators (URLs) in a browser viewable document being identified by a source URL. The method includes identifying a target URL in the browser viewable document; determining whether the target URL includes an initial hostname; determining whether the source URL has an appended hostname or port information associated therewith; and appending the hostname or port information associated with the source URL to the target URL to form a modified target URL, when it is determined that the target URL does not include the initial hostname and that the source URL has appended hostname or port information associated therewith, such that requests associated with the target URL are associated with the modified target URL. As amended, it is clear that the modified target URL is to be associated with requests for the target URL. In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has failed to provide a basis for his rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for claims 31- 37, and 39-45. Accordingly, it is unclear whether the blanket rejection of all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph was intended to include this claim set. Absent a more specific indication of the alleged deficiencies, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding independent claim 46, the Examiner indicated that the scope of 46 is not clear in that it is not seen how the markup language document modified in a manner set forth in the steps in able to facilitate access to other markup language documents. (Office Action, pg. 3). Applicants have amended claim 46 to remove the statement

relating to facilitating access to other markup language documents through an intermediary server from the preamble.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-47 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 and 10-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GRABER et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a method for exchanging information between a first server and a second server, the first and second servers being coupled to a network. The method includes receiving the request from a requestor. An initial hostname portion of the request associated with a network address of the first server is identified. A replacement hostname portion for the request is retrieved from storage associated with the server, where the replacement hostname portion is associated with a network address of the second server. The initial hostname portion is replaced with the replacement hostname portion to form the modified request. The modified request is forwarded to the second server using the replacement hostname portion. Information associated with the modified request is received from the second server. The received information is modified to associate the received information with the first server, where modifying the received information further comprises modifying at least one original URL link in the received information to form at least one modified link associated with the at least one original URL link and the first server, such that selection of the at least one modified link results in requests being directed toward the first server.

Applicants submit that GRABER et al. fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in Applicants' claim 1, as amended, as required by 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

For example, GRABER et al. does not disclose or suggest modifying at least one original URL link in the received information to form at least one modified link associated with the at least one original URL link and the first server, such that selection of the at least one modified link results in requests being directed toward the first server. Applicants note that the above feature of claim 1 was initially included in claim 2, as originally filed.

The Examiner fails to indicate where GRABER et al. discloses or fairly suggests modifying an original URL link contained within the information received from the second server to form a modified link associated with the first server, as required by amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that a prima facie case for denying patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has not been established.

In any event, GRABER et al. does not disclose modifying an original URL link within information received from a second server to form a modified link such that selection of a modified link results in requests being directed toward the first server. Rather, in the system of GRABER et al., a user initially accesses a co-marketer web site (e.g., www.abcd.com) which then directs the user to an online service web site using a specific hyperlink having a URL of a specific format (e.g., www.ols.com\cm1\index.html), indicating the identity of the referring co-marketer. As disclosed at col. 5, lines 36-45, this URL has two portions, a first portion (e.g., www.ols.com) associated with the OLS site and a second portion (e.g., \cm1\index.html) indicating the relational

resource filename (index.html) and a UNIX symbolic link (cm1) indicative of the co-marketer. In this manner, requests received via the URL indicate both the resource the user desires to view as well as an indication as to the identity of the co-marketer. URL links in documents received from the online service web site are not modified to direct subsequent requests associated with those links to the co-marketer. Clearly, GRABER et al. fails to disclose or suggest such a modification of the received information.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over GRABER et al.

Claims 3-8, 10-23, and 47 depend from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable over GRABER et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Regarding independent claims 24, 26, 27, 31, 38, 39, and 46, the Examiner indicates at page 5 of the Final Office Action dated November 23, 2004 that these claims are broader than claims 1-8 and 10-23. The Examiner then indicates that claims 24, 26, 27, 31, 38, 39, and 46 therefore do not define above the invention claimed in claims 1-8 and 10-23 and are therefore rejected under GRABER et al. for the same reasons as claims 1-8 and 10-23. Furthermore, at page 4 of the present Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims the scope of claims 24 and 39 are no different that claim 1, with only labels of the addresses and servers being different. Applicants continue to respectfully disagree.

For example, claim 24, as amended, recites a method for modifying a markup language document. The method includes receiving, at an intermediate server, the markup language document including at least one original link to another resource. The

at least one original link of the markup language document is modified to link to the intermediary server, to form a modified markup language document having at least one modified link, where the modified link is associated with the resource and the intermediary server. The modified markup language document is forwarded to a requestor.

No indication is provided where any of the claim elements recited in claim 24 may be found in the cited GRABER et al. reference. More specifically, the Examiner fails to indicate where GRABER et al. discloses or fairly suggests modifying an original link in a markup language document to link to an intermediary server. The system of GRABER et al. fails to disclose or suggest receiving, at an intermediate server a markup language document including at least one original link to another resource and modifying the at least one original link of the markup language document to link to the intermediary server, to form a modified markup language document having at least one modified link, where the modified link is associated with the resource and the intermediary server. As discussed in detail above, GRABER et al. described a system where received requests are modified to include co-marketer identification information prior to forwarding to the vendor site. Such modifications are not equivalent to and do not suggest the features of claim 24. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103 has not been made. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 24 is patentable over GRABER et al.

Claims 25 depends from claim 24. Accordingly, claim 25 is patentable over GRABER et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 24,

Independent claims 26, 27, 31, 38, 39 and 46 recite features similar to features recited above with respect to claim 24. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 26, 27, 31, 38, 39 and 46 are patentable over GRABER et al for reasons similar to reasons given above with respect to claim 24. Moreover, these claims recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by GRABER et al.

For example, claim 39 recites a method for modifying Universal Resource Locators (URLs) in a browser viewable document. The method includes: identifying a URL in the browser viewable document; determining whether the URL includes an initial hostname; determining whether the URL is associated with a secure request; modifying the initial hostname of the URL in a first manner when it is determined that the URL includes the initial hostname and that the URL is not associated with a secure request; and modifying the initial hostname of the URL in a second manner when it is determined that the URL includes the initial hostname and that the URL is associated with a secure request, the second manner being different from the first manner.

No indication is provided where any of the claim elements recited in claim 39 may be found in the cited GRABER et al. reference. More specifically, the Examiner fails to indicate where GRABER et al. discloses or fairly suggests modifying the initial hostname of the URL in a first manner when it is determined that the URL includes the initial hostname and that the URL is not associated with a secure request. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103 has not been made. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 39 is patentable over GRABER et al.

Claims 28-30 depend from claim 27. Therefore, these claims are patentable over GRABER et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 27. Claims 32-

37 depend from claim 31. Therefore, these claims are patentable over GRABER et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 31. Claims 40-45 depend from claim 39. Therefore, these claims are patentable over GRABER et al. for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 39.

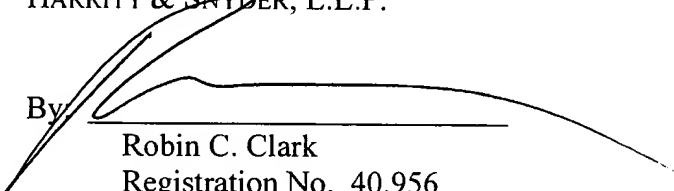
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of all claims 1, 3-8 and 10-47.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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